

Such are some of the Papal testimonies* to the Protestantism of Queen Elizabeth—testimonies which might be indefinitely multiplied throughout the whole of her reign. It was assumed that Elizabeth would certainly marry, and the primary object of the Papal powers was to prevent her marrying a Protestant, and to secure her marriage to some Spanish or Austrian prince, in order to bring her and her people under the yoke of Rome. To accomplish this they sought to excite divisions among her subjects, to encourage disaffection, to embarrass Elizabeth in every way possible; to appeal to her gratitude, her fears, and her ambition; she had spies about her to watch and report her every word, whether spoken in pleasantry, in anger, in private confidence, or openly; the most able and wily diplomatists exerted their utmost skill and art to entangle, terrify and persuade her; but all to no purpose. Elizabeth proved herself a match for them all, and maintained her Protestantism and the Protestant independence of her people, against all their threats, intrigues and machinations. The Spanish Bishop Ambassador, De Guadra, wrote to the Emperor Ferdinand, (August 8, 1559,) "Her position is so perilous that one would have thought she would have caught at the marriage with the Archduke to save herself; but she is so passionate in these matters of religion, she has so preposterous a notion of her own strength—of which it is impossible to disenchant her—that I have little hope that she will do anything good." Again, in October, De Guadra writes to De Feria, "If the Queen were a woman of sense or conscience, something might be done about the marriage, but she is so reckless I

* The dispatches from which the above extracts are given will be found quoted more at large in the seventh volume of Froude's *History of the Reign of Elizabeth*, together with many others to the same effect. The project of a marriage between Philip II. of Spain and Elizabeth having failed Philip's next project was to bring about a marriage between Elizabeth and his cousin, Archduke Charles of Austria, son of the Emperor Ferdinand. Froude justly remarks, "Six thousand Spaniards thrown upon Norfolk coast, all Catholic England rising to welcome them, and Elizabeth obliged to retrace her steps, restore the Catholic bishops, marry Charles, and live as a satellite to Philip—this was the scheme which filled the imagination of Spanish ministers, and which faded away only when the Queen surprised friend and foe by rising triumphant over her difficulties by her own energy and skill."—Vol. VII., p. 173.